

5 General

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5th December, 1959.

COCOM Document 3717.31/1

COORDINATING COMMITTEE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION

ON

ITEM 1731 - HYDRAZINE.

25th and 30th November, 1959

Present: Belgium(Luxembourg), Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States.

References: COCOM Docs. Nos. 3700.2, 3717.00/1 and W.P. 1731/1 and 2.

1. The GERMAN Delegation suggested that this item be redefined to read:
"Hydrazine nitrate, unsymmetrical dimethyl hydrazine."
2. This proposal was supported by the FRENCH, ITALIAN and JAPANESE Delegations.
3. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation in turn suggested a redefinition proposal for this item, as follows:
"Hydrazine in concentrations of 70% or greater; hydrazine nitrate; unsymmetrical dimethyl hydrazine."
4. In view of the arguments put forward by the UNITED KINGDOM Delegation, the CANADIAN, FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN and JAPANESE Delegations were prepared to support the United Kingdom redefinition. The NETHERLANDS Delegation had no strong views. The important military applications of this item led them to believe that the definition might be left unchanged, but they were prepared to consider any suggestion made in the Committee.
5. The UNITED STATES Delegation opposed any change in the present definition, on the grounds that hydrazine would be increasingly used for rocket fuels. In the United States, hydrazine concentrates over 50% and hydrazine hydrate were used for this purpose. They further believed that the Sino-Soviet Bloc lacked hydrazine hydrate, from which it was possible to produce the anhydrous form. Moreover the transport of this product in bulk no longer presented any problem, and could not therefore be regarded as a restrictive factor where export trade was concerned.
6. The UNITED KINGDOM Delegation maintained that it was very difficult to obtain the 95% hydrazine used in rocket fuels from hydrazine hydrate or from the lower concentrations of hydrazine.
7. CONCLUSION : The COMMITTEE noted that agreement had not been reached on Item 1731 and agreed to resume study of it during the second round of discussion.

SPG.